

STARTTORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1957



F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the health of the Startforth Rural District for the year ended 31st December 1957.


The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General was 5,120, a decrease of exactly 400 on that for 1956, but 50 more than the estimated population for 1955.

The total number of births was 74, i.e. 11 more than in the previous year, and there was only one infantile death, under 1 year in 1957, there being no maternal deaths in the year under review. The infantile mortality rate at 13.51 was well below that for England and Wales at 23.00.

The death rate at 9.74 (43 deaths) compares with the National rate at 11.5 and is very similar to that for 1956. Principal causes of death, viz. 17 deaths from heart diseases, 10 from cancer and 4 from vascular diseases of the nervous system, there being no deaths from tuberculosis and there were 4 deaths from other circulatory diseases.

Although 1957 was a "Measles Year" there were no deaths from this cause or from any of the infectious diseases - total notifications of infectious diseases were 92 and measles accounted for 83 cases, this disease was epidemic from February to August with peak incidence in June and July; 49 cases were school children, 32 cases were under school age and there were two adult cases. There were only 2 cases of whooping cough notified in the year and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Sonne dysentery broke^{out} in one family at Startforth with 5 cases all belonging to the same family, 3 were school children and 2 children under school age. This disease is very contagious and spreads rapidly in a household particularly when hygienic measures are omitted - hand washing before handling food and especially after visiting a toilet is absolutely essential to prevent spread - also thorough disinfection of toilets, chains, taps, door-handles etc. is necessary.

It is pleasing to record no cases of poliomyelitis occurring in the District and in this connection artificial immunization against this disease was carried out as far as the limited supplies of vaccine allowed.


Medical Officer of Health.

10th July 1958.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: C. D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.P.H.I.A., C.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres	...	97630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate		5120
Number of inhabited houses	...	1420
Rateable Value at 1st April 1957	...	£ 74229
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£ 294.0.0.
Rate in £ levied at 1st April 1957	...	7/11

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 74, as against 63 in 1956. The birth rate comparisons show that the rate for the District is higher than that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons. Live births per 1,000 population
Still births per 1,000 total live
and stillbirths as adjusted by
Comparability Factor.

	<u>Live births</u>	<u>Stillbirths</u>
Startforth Rural District 1956	14.38	60.00
Startforth Rural District 1957	18.21	26.31
England and Wales 1957	16.10	22.40

	<u>Live Births.</u>				<u>Stillbirths</u>			
	1956		1957		1956		1957	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	24	36	25	42	1	2	2	.
Illegitimate	1	2	2	5	.	.	.	.
Totals	25	38	27	47	1	2	2	.

DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. No maternal deaths were registered in the District during the year.

Infantile Mortality. One child under one year died in the District during 1957, the same number as for 1956.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons. Per 1,000 live Births.

Startforth Rural District 1956	15.87
Startforth Rural District 1957	13.51
England and Wales 1957	23.00

Deaths from All Causes. During 1957 there were 43 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 46 in 1956. The death rate comparing favourably with that for the rest of England and Wales.

Death Rates Comparisons. Death Rate per 1,000 pop.

Startforth Rural District 1956	9.66
Startforth Rural District 1957	9.74
England and Wales 1957	11.50

<u>Causes of all Deaths and Sexes.</u>		<u>1957</u>		<u>1956</u>	
		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory		.	.	.	.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach		.	1	.	1
" " Lung, bronchus		1	1	2	.
" " Breast		.	.	.	.
" " uterus		.	.	.	.
Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm		5	2	2	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System		1	3	4	2
Coronary Diseases, Angina		9	3	5	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease		1	.	.	1
Other Heart Diseases		.	4	4	11
Other Circulatory Diseases		3	1	1	2
Influenza		.	.	.	1
Pneumonia		.	.	1	.
Bronchitis		1	.	.	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate		1	.	.	.
Pregnancy, Childbirth		.	.	.	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		1	2	.	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents		1	.	1	.
All Other Accidents		1	.	.	.
Suicide		.	1	.	.
Totals		25	18	20	26

<u>Ages at Death -- from all causes</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
From birth to one day	.	.
From one day to one week	1	.
Over one week, but under one yr	.	1
From 1 to 24 years	.	.
From 25 to 54 years	5	10
From 55 to 64 years	2	3
From 65 to 74 years	17	14
Over 75 years	21	15
Totals	46	43

It will be noted that 11 deaths are below the age of 55, 17 in the age group 55/74 and that 15 were over 75 years at death.

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and Comparisons with the previous year.

<u>No. of Deaths</u>		<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 pop.</u>	
<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>		<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
10	6	Cancer	1.96	1.09
1	.	Respiratory (non-Tuberculosis)	.20	.
17	24	Heart Diseases	3.32	4.35
.	.	Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	.	.
.	.	Tuberculosis - Non Pulmonary	.	.
4	3	Other Circulatory Diseases	.78	.54
4	6	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	.78	1.77
36	39		7.03	7.07

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 92 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases reported during 1957, as against 79 in 1956.

<u>Analysis and Comparisons with previous year</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	4
Acute Pneumonia	...	2
Chicken Pox	2	.
Sonne Dysentery	5	.
Polionyelitis Para.	.	3
Whooping Cough	2	8
Measles	83	62
Totals	92	79

TUBERCULOSIS. One new case of tuberculosis was notified during the year, this being the first notification since 1952.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. No death from this disease was registered in the District in 1957, there were no deaths from this cause in 1956 also.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. The following vaccinations and immunisations were carried out in 1957 and compared with those done in the previous year.

	1957		1956	
	0 - 5 years	Over 5	0 - 5 years	Over 5
Successful Vaccinations	28	14	22	4
Completed Course of Immunisation	41	6	39	18

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. At the end of December 1957 205 children in the District had received two injections against poliomyelitis.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1946.

- Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Section 24. Health Visiting
- Section 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and is attended by the District Medical Officer and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

The following number of visits paid to the patients in the District by the Nurse/Midwife during 1957 under the respective categories are compared with those for 1956:-

Category	1957	1956
Domiciliary	1394	1143
Midwifery		
Home Nursing	1591	1749
Health Visiting	1724	1140

Section 27. Ambulance Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council from the Ambulance Station which has a staff of one Driver/Foreman, one Shift Leader and 5 Driver/attendants, and with the assistance of the Hospital Car Service covers the Richmond Borough, and Rural Districts of Startforth, Richmond, Croft and Reeth.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care. The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health service, inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council, and during 1957 8 cases received help, as compared with 9 in 1956, the analysis and comparison with 1956 being:-

Category	1957		1956	
	Cases	Hours	Cases	Hours
Domiciliary Confinement	.	.	4	215
Chronic Sick	4	2177	4	1819
Sick Housewife	4	233	1	126
Tuberculosis	.	.	.	.

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the Area and no cases arose in 1957, - as in the previous three years.

Dental Services. This service is provided by arrangement, with the North Riding County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47. No cases in 1957.

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The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual by Mr. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector and I now thank him for his kind co-operation at all times and for the completion of this Report.

Nuisance Inspection.

Total number of inspections for nuisances only	79
Total number of nuisances found	25
Number of Statutory Notices served	.
Number of Informal Notices served	21

Public Cleansing. During the year a Scavenging Service operated throughout the District and only a small number of the remote out-lying premises were not served. From the greater part of the area refuse is collected weekly although in a few places a fortnightly service meets the requirements, whilst at the Military Establishment in Starforth a twice weekly collection is made.

All refuse is conveyed to one refuse tip which is situated in the parish of Mickleton where a semi-controlled system is operated and Ministry of Health Recommendation followed so far as is possible. Two Karrier refuse vehicles and four men are employed on the service and the total annual cost is £2,924.

Infectious Diseases. Five cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred during the year. They were confined to one family in the village of Startforth and advice was given to limit the spread of the disease.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	12	17
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	8	9
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	8	12

Inspection and Supervision of Food. Nineteen shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Eight of these are licenced to store ice-cream for sale.

Four privately owned slaughterhouses are registered and 215 visits of inspection were made during the year. The following table shows the details of the carcasses inspected during the year.

The meat slaughtered was of a uniformly high standard of quality and the amount condemned a very small percentage of the whole.

	Cattle Excluding Goats	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	409	.	297	1737	190	.
Number inspected	409	.	297	1737	190	.
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	23	.	.	15	5	.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.62	.	.	.86	2.63	.
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	.	.	.	.	.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	.	.	.	.	.	.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.244	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	.	.	.	.	.	.
Generalised and totally condemned	.	.	.	.	.	.

Moveable Dwellings. There is one licenced caravan site in the area. During the year the occupier of this applied for a revised licence and one was issued for a maximum of 70 moveable dwellings subject to the provision of satisfactory water supply and sanitary facilities. It is probable that these will be completely fulfilled in 1958.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. The Council owns modern works at Cotherstone and Mickleton, both of which villages are provided with a satisfactory system of sewers. The sewage disposal works at Barningham, Bowes, Romaldkirk and Startforth are inadequate and largely obsolete and the villages of Boldron, Holwick, Hutton Magna, Lartington and Ovington have no disposal works. At the present time a scheme for the enlarging of the works at Romaldkirk is awaiting the permission of the Minister of Health and Local Government for tenders to be invited. Negotiations are also taking place with a view to the sewage from Startforth village being treated in the disposal works of the Barnard Castle Urban District Council. It is intended to proceed with schemes, the majority of which are already prepared, for the remaining villages as soon as possible after a start is made on the two above schemes.

Water Supply. The parishes of Mickleton, Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Lartington and Ovington are supplied by the Tees Valley Water Board and the parish of Startforth by the Urban District of Barnard Castle. The Council operates undertakings in the parishes of Barningham, Boldron, Bowes, Holwick and Hutton Magna. The supply at Holwick was put into operation with a temporary system of chlorination pending the installation of a permanent chlorinator for which a tender was accepted during the year. A scheme was under consideration during the year for the improvement of the supplies at Bowes and Boldron by using as a source water from the Borehole at Bowes sunk during the war by the Air Ministry. Negotiations are also taking place for the supply of water to the parishes of Egglestone Abbey, Rokeby, and Thorpe, from the 30" Trunk main now being installed by the Tees Valley Water Board. It is hoped that this trunk main will also be able to supply water to Hutton Magna and part of the parish of Wycliffe.

Thirty nine samples of water were submitted to bacteriological examination during the year, of these twenty six were satisfactory and thirteen unsatisfactory. Where an unsatisfactory report was received for a sample from a public supply an immediate investigation into the cause was made and remedial measures taken. Where a private supply was shown to be unsatisfactory advice was given to the owner on possible measures for its protection.

Housing. The Council owns eighty six Council houses of which six were erected in the inter-war years. They also own four bungalows which were converted, with assistance under the Housing Act, 1949, from the former Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital.

Application from private individuals for improvement grants are being received and are considered on their merits. During the year five grants were made.

The owners of houses in the area which have been listed by the Council as unfit have been asked to give urgent consideration to the condition of their property and many of them have carried out work to make the house concerned fit. However, it will become necessary for the Council to consider what action to take in respect of those remaining on the list, many of which are occupied by elderly people.

Rodent Control. During the year a total of sixteen treatments for rat infestations were carried out. Of these one was on farm property where a major infestation was present and where a successful treatment was carried out.